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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/603,005

06/24/2003

Chung-Chien Chen

402-112

1647

7590

08/18/2004

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EXAMINER

BEN, LOHA

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2873

DATE MAILED: 08/18/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/603,005

Applicant(s)

CHEN ET AL.

Examiner

LOHA BEN

Art Unit

2873

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 June 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 7, 9, 12, 17, 18, 21 and 32-34 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 6, 8, 10, 11, 13-16, 19, 20 and 22-31 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Loha Ben
Primary Examiner

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on March 4, 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Objection to the Specification

Arabic numerals and capital letters are now used to label the respective figures in the drawings. However, lower case letters to indicate respective figure numbers are still used in the specification. Correction of these lower case letters should be implemented accordingly to bring about consistency.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 6, 8, 10, 11, 13-16, 19, 20, and 22-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 6: lines 1 and 2, "the inputs . . . gate" has no antecedent basis.

In claim 8: lines 1 and 2, "said . . . additional" has no antecedent basis.

In claim 10: line 2, "said second . . . circuit" has no antecedent basis. Perhaps, "electrical-to-optical" should be replaced with -- optical-to-electrical --, and before "circuit", -- converter -- should be inserted.

In claim 13: line 2, "said EXCLUSIVE OR gate" has no antecedent basis.

In claim 14: lines 8 and 9 are not understood. Perhaps "said first . . . signal" should be replaced with -- said first digital electrical transmission protocol signal --. See claim 2.

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In claim 16: lines 4 and 5, "said first . . . protocol signal" has no antecedent basis. Apparently, "optical" recited on line 5, should be replaced with -- electrical --.

In claim 19: line 1, "18" should be replaced with -- 17 --, otherwise the phrase "said plurality of . . . frequency band" recited on lines 6-8 has no antecedent basis. Also please note the recitation on lines 13 and 14 as to the video signals.

In claim 20: line 1, "18" should be replaced with -- 17 --, otherwise "said plurality of digital optical video signals" recited on lines 7 and 8, and 13 and 14 has no antecedent basis.

In claim 22: line 12, "said first connector" has no antecedent basis.

In claim 27: line 12, "said second connector" has no antecedent basis.

Claims 11, 15, 23-26, and 28-34 are indefinite due to their dependency on claims 10, 14, 22, and 27, respectively.

Minor Informality Suggested in the Claims

In claim 1: lines 35, 36, 39 and 40, after "converter", -- circuit -- should be inserted.

In claim 3: line 2, before "circuit", -- converter -- should be inserted.

In claim 15: line 3, after "first", -- digital -- should be inserted.

In claim 21: lines 23, 24, 27 and 28, after "converter", -- circuit -- should be inserted.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-5, 7, 9, 12, 17, 18, 21, and 32-34 are allowable.

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Claims 6, 8, 10, 11, 13-16, 19, 20, and 22-31 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Vis-à-vis Ichikawa'645, the independent claim 21 (broadest claim),as now worded, still distinguishes thereover in that the patent in consideration fails to teach or fairly suggest any role of an electrical clock signal in the implementation of electrical-to-optical and optical-to-electrical conversion of signals received.

Communication

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Loha Ben whose telephone number is (571) 272-2323. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Saturday, generally between 12:00 noon and 8:00 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Georgia Y. Epps, can be reached on Monday to Friday, at (571) 272-2328. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: ***

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

August 17, 2004

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Loha Ben', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Loha Ben
Primary Examiner